

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, June 8, 2020
Virtual video conference via Zoom

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board was unable to meet in person. Therefore this meeting was conducted virtually using Zoom, and live-streamed to the public via YouTube.

Members present: Al Treloar, Marilyn Jordan, Molly Ketchum, Greg Stotts. Employees present: Executive Director Tanner Scheuermann, Naturalist/Ranger Katie Healy.

Chair Treloar called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Motion to approve agenda, with one addition, by Stotts, second by Jordan. Passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 202 meeting by Jordan, second by Ketchum. Passed.

Scheuermann reviewed the financial information and presented the monthly bills. Motion by Stotts, second by Jordan to approve bills of \$60,142.58 and REAP-bait shop \$154.14. Passed.

Old business:

Scheuermann reported on the ongoing COVID-19 protocols. Most campers have been compliant with the rules. Golfing has been open for a couple of months, campgrounds are open, shower houses in A and B are open, C will be open as soon as the boiler is fixed. The cabins and shelters are also open. The clubhouse is open for carry out and soon will be ready for full service. Everything is limited to 50% capacity with special cleaning protocols

New business:

Katie Healy gave her quarterly naturalist report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most activities this quarter had to be cancelled. All school and public programs, and most private programs that were planned were not able to occur. A program through the Boone County Leadership program on March 3rd was able to be presented. A virtual canoe paddle on Don Williams Lake was done for the Facebook page, and a virtual ISU Ag Discovery video program will be presented. Healy shared information about the kestrel nest boxes, two have eggs, the other three had nesting pairs, but the birds have disappeared. She also reported working with the INHF and DNR regarding plans for Clover Woods for educational programming. She assisted with a ground squirrel tracking program, completed a firefighting online course, and is continuing to work with the Y Camp education birds, which can be shared for programming. She talked about some of the potential plans for summer programs – possibly small groups, canoe floats, and socially distanced family camping. She asked for input from the board, and it was agreed that whatever of those activities she is comfortable doing are acceptable, with consideration given to changing circumstances with the pandemic.

Scheuermann presented the figures on the budget as the year end approaches. We have almost \$50,000 that would be available after current bills and payroll are paid. With the pandemic, some things were not able to be done this spring. He will ask the BOS to allow \$25,000 (or more) to be transferred to the Conservation Trust Fund, to be available for the Grant's Woods restroom

facility to be constructed this summer. Also he would like to purchase some kayaks to be used at Don Williams, and a trailer for use at Swede Point before the end of the fiscal year.


Scheuermann presented the NFWL Monarch/Pollinator Grant pre-proposal, along the Des Moines River greenbelt in Boone County and the South Skunk River greenbelt in Story County. The goal is to increase connectivity with public and private ownership for pollinator and wildlife habitat. This grant would allow technical assistance through Prairie Rivers, with in-kind contributions from the Boone and Story County Conservation Boards. Private landowners will learn about projects they can do, such as riparian buffers, prairie strips and wetlands, and receive technical assistance.

Scheuermann gave updates on the Boone Forks Project. A photographer will be coming in to get photos for the Boone Forks website that is under development. There has been discussion of a coordinated three county river cleanup. They would not necessarily be on the same day, but could share information and advertising about the project. Scheuermann has been in contact with the Boone County Landfill regarding the Dragoon River Romp cleanup project.

Scheuermann reported on the last meeting of the Trails Committee, where several different options for a trail route connecting the City of Boone to Ledges State Park were discussed.. Possibilities include Oriole Road, Montana Road, and Quill Avenue. Conservation Board member Marilyn Jordan spoke to the problems of using Quill Avenue, as she lives on that road. Quill has lots of elevation changes, very little shoulder, and is a very busy road. The other proposed routes also have challenges to their feasibility, and any proposal would need meetings with landowners to determine interest and objections.

In open discussion, Scheuermann reported that Campground C upgrades are almost complete, along with the shower house there almost ready to open. The DNR had requested a boat ramp at Dicksissel Pond, which has been installed. The campground hosts are all lined up and in place, and have been instructed in additional cleaning protocols due to COVID-19. Volunteers have been helping to clear brush in preparation for the Frisbee golf course at Don Williams. Updates have been made to the My County Parks website, making it easier to determine availability of cabins and shelters for rental. Donations of gift certificates, etc. have been made to the KWBG radio station's spring auction site.

Motion by Stotts, second by Jordan to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Passed.



Alvin A. Treloar, Chair



Molly Ketchum, Acting Secretary